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BY HAND

Your ref
Our ref 231448/(CV/2017/02)/M45/950/B02345

Environmental Protection Department
The EIA Ordinance Register Office
27th Floor, Southorn Centre
130 Hennessy Road
Wan Chai, Hong Kong

Attention: Mr. LYN Wing Chung, Alex (Env Protection Offr (Strategic Assessment) 64)

7 October 2022

Dear Sir

Contract No. CV/2017/02
Development of Columbarium at Sandy Ridge Cemetery – Infrastructural Works at Man Kam To Road and Lin Ma Hang Road

Submission under Environmental Permit (EP-534/2017/A) – Condition 3.2(i) (Baseline Survey Report for Golden-headed Cisticola and Bird Nesting (By Qualified Ecologist))

We refer to the our previous submission ref. 231448/(CV/2017/02)/M45/950/B01939 dated 5 October 2021 and the subsequent discussion with your goodself on the captioned submission.

As per condition 3.2(i) under Environmental Permit (EP-534/2017/A), the captioned report is required for the submission of Monitoring and Survey Plan for Golden-headed Cisticola specified in condition 2.19 under the same Environmental Permit.

We submit herewith four hard copies and one electronic copy of the revised submission (*Attachment A* refers).

The certification letter by ET Leader and the verification letter by IEC for the foregoing submission are enclosed (*Attachment B* refers).

Should you have comment on the foregoing submission, please feel free to contact my Resident Engineer, Mr. C.S. DING at 6190-1835 or ET Leader, Mr. TAM Tak-wing at 9212-0408.

Yours faithfully



LAU Pak-yan, Anthony
The *Project Manager's* delegate for this contract

.../2

7 October 2022

cc CEDD – DPTL/HEP
SHCCCL
ET (AUES)
IEC (Acuity)

- Mr. SHUM Ngai-hung, Steven
- Mr. Elvin LAM
- Mr. T.W. TAM (via e-mail)
- Mr. Jacky LEUNG (via e-mail)

} w/o electronic copy

Response required : Yes
Date required : N/A
Attachment : Yes (4 set + 1 CD)

AL/DP/BL/cc

Attachment A

**SITE FORMATION AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURAL WORKS
FOR DEVELOPMENT OF COLUMBARIUM, CREMATORIUM AND RELATED
FACILITIES AT SANDY RIDGE CEMETERY**

**SUBMISSION UNDER ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT: EP-534/2017/A AND COVERS
THE GEOGRAPHICAL AREA FOR**

**CEDD CONTRACT NO. CV/2017/02 –
DEVELOPMENT OF COLUMBARIUM AT SANDY RIDGE CEMETERY –
INFRASTRUCTURAL WORKS AT MAN KAM TO ROAD AND LIN MA HANG
ROAD**

Baseline Survey Report for Golden-Headed Cisticola



ECO-ENVIRO CONSULTANTS COMPANY

Prepared by

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Keith Kei', is written over a horizontal line.

Keith Kei
(Ecologist)

Summary

ES.01 Sang Hing Civil Contractors Co., Ltd (hereinafter called the “the Contractor of Contract 2”) was awarded the CEDD Contract No. CV/2017/02 “Development of Columbarium at Sandy Ridge Cemetery - Infrastructural Works at Man Kam To Road and Lin Ma Hang Road” on 23 May 2018. This is part of the Designated Project to be implemented under Environmental Permit No. EP-534/2017/A.

ES.02 A Monitoring Survey Plan for Golden-headed Cisticola for the geographic location Contract 2 of EP-534/2017/A had submitted to EPD in accordance to Condition 2.19 of EP-534/2017/A. According to EP-534/2017/A Condition 3.2(i), baseline survey and monitoring of Golden-headed Cisticola is required in accordance the approved plan.

ES.03 The activities for baseline survey for Golden-headed Cisticola and the presence of bird nest for the geographic location Contract 2 of EP-534/2017/A are summarised below table.

Monitoring Parameter	Survey Frequency	Surveyed date
Baseline survey and monitoring of Golden-headed Cisticola	Before commencement of Contract 2	24 th April 2018, 11 th and 13 th May 2018
Precautionary Checks	Once per each plots before vegetation clearance	24 th April 2018 for Plots 5, 6 & 7; 11 th May 2018 for Plots 3 & 4; and 13 th May 2018 for Plots 1 & 2
Exclusion Zone (confirmed with breeding Territories)	Twice per week until young have fledged and are no longer dependent, or territorial activities have ceased	Not necessary since no nesting birds were recorded.

ES.04 Baseline surveys for Golden-headed Cisticola and the presence of nesting birds were conducted by the qualified ecologist on 24th April 2018, 11th and 13th May 2018 before the commencement of construction activities under Contract 2 and vegetation clearance. All 7 plots have been surveyed by using Territory Mapping method.

ES.05 During the baseline survey, no Golden-headed Cisticola nor its breeding ground were recorded. Besides, a total of 18 bird species were recorded during the three days survey. No other nesting bird was recorded during the precautionary checks.

ES.06 As the presence of Golden-headed Cisticola was not observed during the baseline survey, no threshold was recommended. However, impact monitoring as part of the EM&A programme should be followed in according to the EM&A Manual. A monitoring schedule suggests for construction phase and vegetation clearance during breeding season in below Table.

Stage	Survey Frequency
Impact monitoring of Golden-headed Cisticola	Monthly bird survey as part of monitoring of measures to minimize impacts to sensitive habitats in the EM&A Manual
Precautionary Checks of presence of nesting birds	Once per each plots before vegetation clearance
Exclusion Zone (confirmed with breeding Territories)	Twice per week until young have fledged and are no longer dependent, or territorial activities have ceased

ES.07 This Baseline Survey Report for Golden-headed Cisticola presents the result of baseline survey of Golden-headed Cisticola and the nesting bird for the geographic location of Contract 2 of EP-534/2017/A.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Civil Engineering and Development Department (hereafter referred as “CEDD”) is the Project Proponent for the Project “Site Formation and Associated Infrastructural Works for Development of Columbarium, Crematorium and Related Facilities at Sandy Ridge Cemetery” (hereafter referred as “the Project”). The Project is a Designated Project to be implemented under Environmental Permit No. EP-534/2017/A. To facilitate the Project management, the Project works were separated into three different Contracts and they are listed below.

- CEDD Contract No. CV/2016/10 - Site Formation and Associated Infrastructural Works for Development of Columbarium at Sandy Ridge Cemetery (hereafter referred as “Contract 1”)
- CEDD Contract No. CV/2017/02 - Infrastructural Works at Man Kam To Road and Lin Ma Hang Road for Development of Columbarium at Sandy Ridge Cemetery (hereafter referred as “Contract 2”)
- Other CEDD’s Contract as related Development of Columbarium at Sandy Ridge Cemetery (hereafter referred as “Contract 3”)

1.2 Sang Hing Civil Contractors Co., Ltd (hereinafter called the “the Contractor of Contract 2”) was awarded the CEDD Contract No. CV/2017/02 “Development of Columbarium at Sandy Ridge Cemetery - Infrastructural Works at Man Kam To Road and Lin Ma Hang Road” on 23 May 2018. The geographical location of Contract 2 under EP-534/2017/A and the layout plan of Contract 2 are shown in **Annex A**. Major works to be executed under the Contract 2 shall include to the following:

- (i) Construction of a new road connecting columbarium site to crematorium site;
- (ii) Construction of one EVA with a total length of about 300m;
- (iii) Widening of a section of 1.4 km long Lin Ma Hang Road (between Man Kam To Road and Ping Yuen River) from 6m wide carriageway to 7.3m with 2m width footpath on both sides;
- (iv) Provision of a pair of lay-by at Lin Ma Hang Road;
- (v) Construction of a new vehicular access connecting the Sheung Shui Landmark North PTI and Lung Sum Avenue;
- (vi) Construction of covered walkway along Fanling Station Road;
- (vii) Removal of planters and central divider along Fanling Station Road and San Wan Road;
- (viii) Associated drainage, sewerage, waterworks and utility works along Man Kam To Road and Lin Ma Hang Road;
- (ix) Associated geotechnical works including cut and fill slopes, soil nailing works and retaining structures; and
- (x) Associated landscaping works.

- 1.3 As there will be a certain amount of vegetation clearance and tree felling required, suspected breeding of several bird species (including Chinese Francolin, Savannah Nightjar, Golden-headed Cisticola and Plain Prinia) which were recorded during the EIA Study (within Project Site Boundary of Western Side (Sandy Ridge), Appendix 9.5, EIA-236/2016, Register No.: AEIAR-198/2016) in the upland grassland will be affected. There were no suspected breeding of several bird species recorded in Eastern Side (Lin Man Hang Road) as referred from Appendix 9.5, EIA-236/2016, Register No.: AEIAR-198/2016.
- 1.4 In the EIA Study, sixteen species of conservation importance have been recorded within the Project boundary, though most were in low number. Only Golden-headed Cisticola was recorded in significant number in comparison to the Hong Kong population and impact of this are assessment separately to those other species.
- 1.5 Golden-headed Cisticola is considered to be of Local Concern by Fellows et al. (2002). However, it is fairly widespread as a passage migrant and winter visitor in grassland habitat in the northern New Territories. In the EIA Study, the highest numbers of Golden-headed Cisticola were recorded from upland Grassland slopes of low-moderate ecological value with a maximum number of 16 recorded. The impact on birds is temporary during the construction phase and the overall impact severity of disturbance impacts of low to moderate significance.
- 1.6 In 2018, there have been changes to the details design of the Project, application for variation of EP with supporting document was submitted to EPD and EP-534/2017/A was issued by EPD on 24 December 2018. Due to the amendment of site boundary, there would be reduction of Upland Grassland, however, the affected area was not related to the geographical location of Contract 2. A figure showing the geographical location of Contracts 1, 2 and 3 is shown in **Annex B**.
- 1.7 During the survey in VEP application stage, Golden-headed Cisticola was recorded on two occasions in grassland in or close to the proposed amendments (max count of 3 in Apr 2018). No records were made of singing birds holding obvious territory during surveys in May 2018 in this area close to the proposed amendments and no adverse impacts are predicted to this species.
- 1.8 A Monitoring Survey Plan for Golden-headed Cisticola had submitted to EPD in accordance to Condition 2.19 of EP-534/2017/A. According to EP-534/2017/A

Condition 3.2(i), baseline survey and monitoring of Golden-headed Cisticola is required in accordance with the Plan.

- 1.9 This Baseline Survey Report for Golden-headed Cisticola presents the result of baseline survey of Golden-headed Cisticola and the presence of nesting birds for the geographic location of Contract 2 of EP-534/2017/A.

2. Method

- 2.1 During the EIA, Golden-headed Cisticola was observed in Upland Grassland which located within Project Site Boundary of Western Side (i.e. Sandy Ridge), therefore, only the concerned habitat (i.e. Upland Grassland area) would be surveyed. In view of the layout of Contract 2, the Sandy Ridge area (which are Upland Grassland) was separated into Plots 1 to 7 (**Figure 1**). Each plot will be walked at a slow pace and cover as much ground as possible. Baseline survey for Golden-headed Cisticola was carried out before commencement of major construction works under Contract 2.
- 2.2 During the baseline monitoring, the presence of Golden-headed Cisticola and any breeding grounds of Golden-headed Cisticola within the plots would be recorded. Other bird species and nesting bird would also be recorded as reference. Binoculars and digital cameras would be used for the survey.
- 2.3 According to EM&A Manual, surveys for breeding birds was followed those outlined for Territory Mapping. The territory mapping method allows the distribution of bird territories across the survey area to be determined and from this the number of breeding pairs for each species in the survey area can be derived. During the survey, all accessible internal field perimeters and paths within the survey area would be walked over by the surveyor. During each walkover the location and species of all birds encountered (including both those seen and those heard) were recorded on a map. All birds and their breeding behaviors (including but not limited to direct sight records, calling or singing adults, adults giving alarm calls or other vocalisations which may have strong territorial significance, aggressive encounters between adults, carrying of nesting material, food or faecal sacs, direct observations of birds sitting on, or flushed from, nests) would be recorded from these plots. These observations would be mapped as accurately as possible to build a picture of breeding territories within each plot, and subsequently the Project site, to aid works programmes. Weather conditions during each survey, including amount of rain, wind speed and temperature would be recorded.

Establishment of Exclusion Zone

- 2.4 Should any active nests be found during the precautionary check, these should be left intact until the young have fledged or the nest becomes disused (e.g. abandoned). It would be necessary to leave a suitable buffer of vegetation cover around active nests during this time. This should be determined on a case-by-case basis depending on the species and surrounding habitat but should be a minimum of 5m around the nest. Where breeding territories have been confirmed, a suitable exclusion zone from the nest (distance dependent on species) would be set up (using appropriate demarcation fencing) to prevent unauthorized access or accidental disturbance.
- 2.5 The breeding territories would be monitored twice per week until young have fledged and are no longer dependent, or territorial activities have ceased (e.g. through abandonment of nest); following departure from the nest, vegetation clearance can then proceed.
- 2.6 Weekly surveys would be commenced within one hour of sunrise, in order to record new breeding territories and monitor any identified territories.

3. Results

- 3.1 The baseline survey of presence of Golden-headed Cisticola and precautionary checks of nesting birds were conducted on 24th April 2018, 11th and 13th May 2018 for all 7 plots before commencement of construction work of Contract 2. The whole work areas were divided in to 7 plots, all existing road and accessible paths within the survey area has been walked over and the transect is shown in *Figure 2*. The background information of the baseline survey is presented in *Table 1*. The weather conditions during each survey, including amount of rain, wind speed and temperature were shown in *Annex C*.

Table 1 Background Information of the Baseline Surveys

Date	Weather condition	Surveyed Plots	Transects adopted
24 th April 2018	Cloudy	Plots 5, 6 & 7	Transect walk
11 th May 2018	Cloudy	Plots 3 & 4	Transect walk
13 th May 2018	Fine	Plots 1 & 2	Transect walk

- 3.2 During the baseline survey, no Golden-headed Cisticola nor its breeding ground was recorded. Besides, a total of 18 bird species were recorded during the survey. All bird species recorded were common species in Hong Kong. The bird list recorded for

the baseline survey is shown in **Table 2**. No other nesting bird was recorded during the precautionary checks. The distribution of the birds species are illustrated in **Figure 3**.

Table 2 Bird List Recorded for the Baseline Survey

No.	English Name	Chinese Name	Scientific Name	Locations Recorded
1	Japanese White-eye	暗綠繡眼鳥	<i>Zosterops japonicus</i>	Plot 6
2	Masked Laughingthrush	黑臉噪鵲	<i>Garrulax perspicillatus</i>	Plot 5
3	Black Drongo	黑卷尾	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	Plot 6, Plot 7
4	Spotted Dove	珠頸斑鳩	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>	Plot 5, Plot 6
5	Asian Koel	噪鵲	<i>Eudynamys scolopaceus</i>	Plot 5
6	Crested Myna	八哥	<i>Acridotheres cristatellus</i>	Plot 1, Plot 3
7	White-throated Kingfisher	白胸翡翠	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	Plot 4
8	Sooty Bulbul	白喉紅臀鸚	<i>Pycnonotus aurigaster</i>	Plot 4, Plot 5, Plot 1
9	Black-throated Laughingthrush	黑喉噪鵲	<i>Garrulax chinensis</i>	Plot 4, Plot 5
10	Red-billed Blue Magpie	紅嘴藍鵲	<i>Urocissa erythroryncha</i>	Plot 7
11	Eurasian Magpie	喜鵲	<i>Pica pica</i>	Plot 6
12	Barn Swallow	家燕	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Plot 3, Plot 4, Plot 6, Plot 7, Plot 1, Plot 5
13	Chinese Bulbul	白頭鸚	<i>Pycnonotus sinensis</i>	Plot 2, Plot 6, Plot 7
14	Red-whiskered Bulbul	紅耳鸚	<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>	Plot 5, Plot 6, Plot 7
15	Greater Coucal	褐翅鴉鵂	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>	Plot 3
16	House Swift	小白腰雨燕	<i>Apus nipalensis</i>	Plot 1, Plot 5
17	Chinese Francolin	中華鷓鴣	<i>Francolinus pintadeanus</i>	Plot 1
18	White-shouldered Starling	灰背椋鳥	<i>Sturnia sinensis</i>	Plot 5

4. Discussion

4.1 During the baseline survey, no Golden-headed Cisticola nor its breeding ground was record. Besides, 18 common bird species were recorded in 7 plots (Photo Plate A), During the precautionary checks of presence of nesting bird, no nesting nor breeding behavior was observed, and no nest was identified within the works area. Since no nest or egg were recorded in all plots during the baseline survey, site clearance could be carried out inside the plots.

4.2 As the presence of Golden-headed Cisticola was not observed during the baseline survey, no threshold was recommended. However, impact monitoring as part of the EM&A programme should be followed in according to the EM&A Manual. A monitoring schedule suggests for construction phase and vegetation clearance during breeding season is shown in **Table 3**.

Table 3 Suggested Monitoring Schedule during Construction Phase

Stage	Survey Frequency
Impact monitoring of Golden-headed Cisticola	Monthly bird survey as part of monitoring of measures to minimize impacts to sensitive habitats in the EM&A Manual
Precautionary Checks of presence of nesting birds	Once per each plots before vegetation clearance
Exclusion Zone (confirmed with breeding Territories)	Twice per week until young have fledged and are no longer dependent, or territorial activities have ceased

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

5.1 In conclusion, no Golden-headed Cisticola nor its breeding ground was record. Moreover, no nesting, breeding behavior or nests were recorded during and precautionary checks. As the presence of Golden-headed Cisticola was not observed during the baseline survey, no threshold was recommended. However, impact monitoring as part of the EM&A programme should be followed in according to the EM&A Manual. A monitoring schedule suggested for construction phase and vegetation clearance during breeding season is shown in the table below.

Stage	Survey Frequency
Impact monitoring of Golden-headed Cisticola	Monthly bird survey as part of monitoring of measures to minimize impacts to sensitive habitats in the EM&A Manual
Precautionary Checks of presence of nesting birds	Once per each plots before vegetation clearance
Exclusion Zone (confirmed with breeding Territories)	Twice per week until young have fledged and are no longer dependent, or territorial activities have ceased

Figure

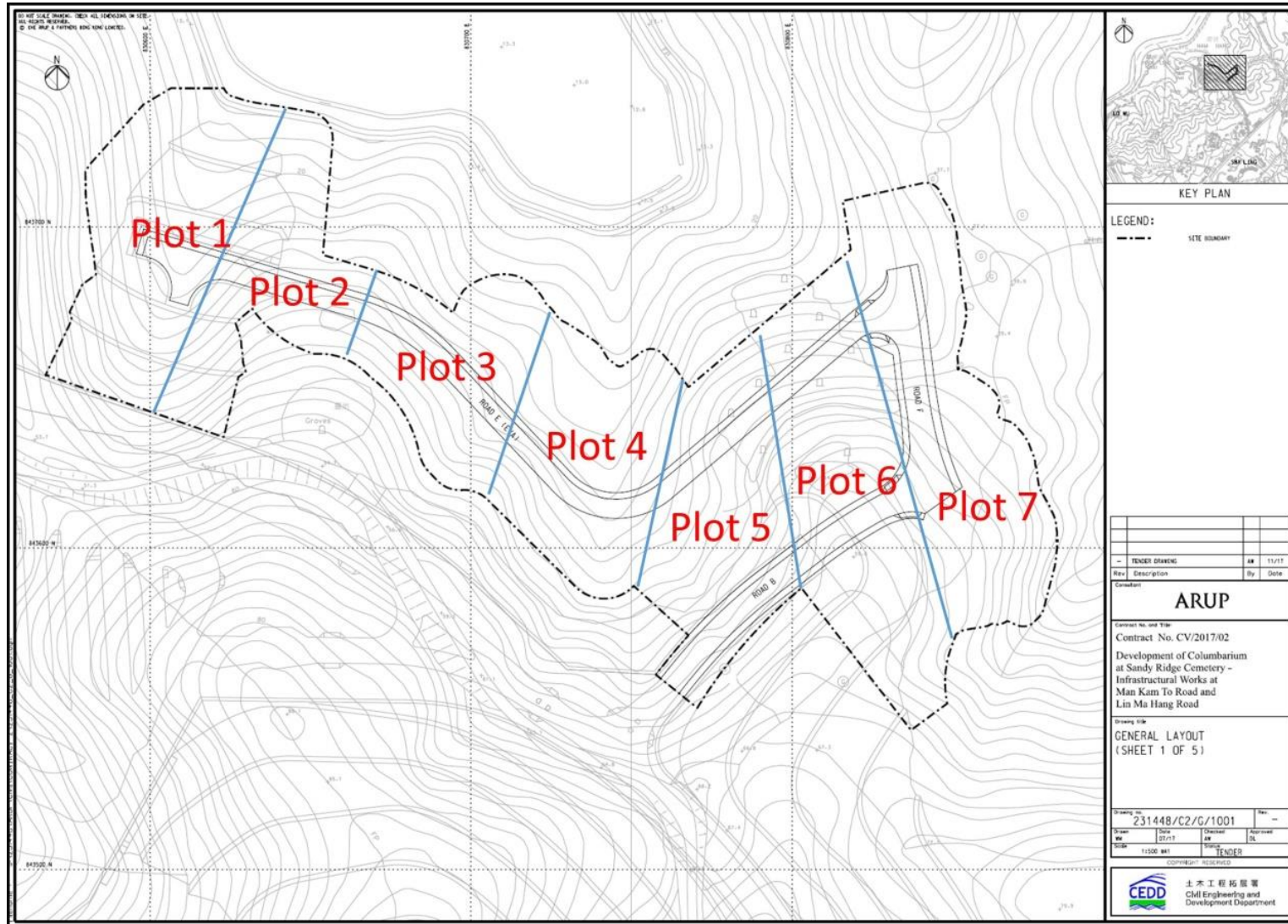


Figure 1 Work Area Separate into 7 Plots

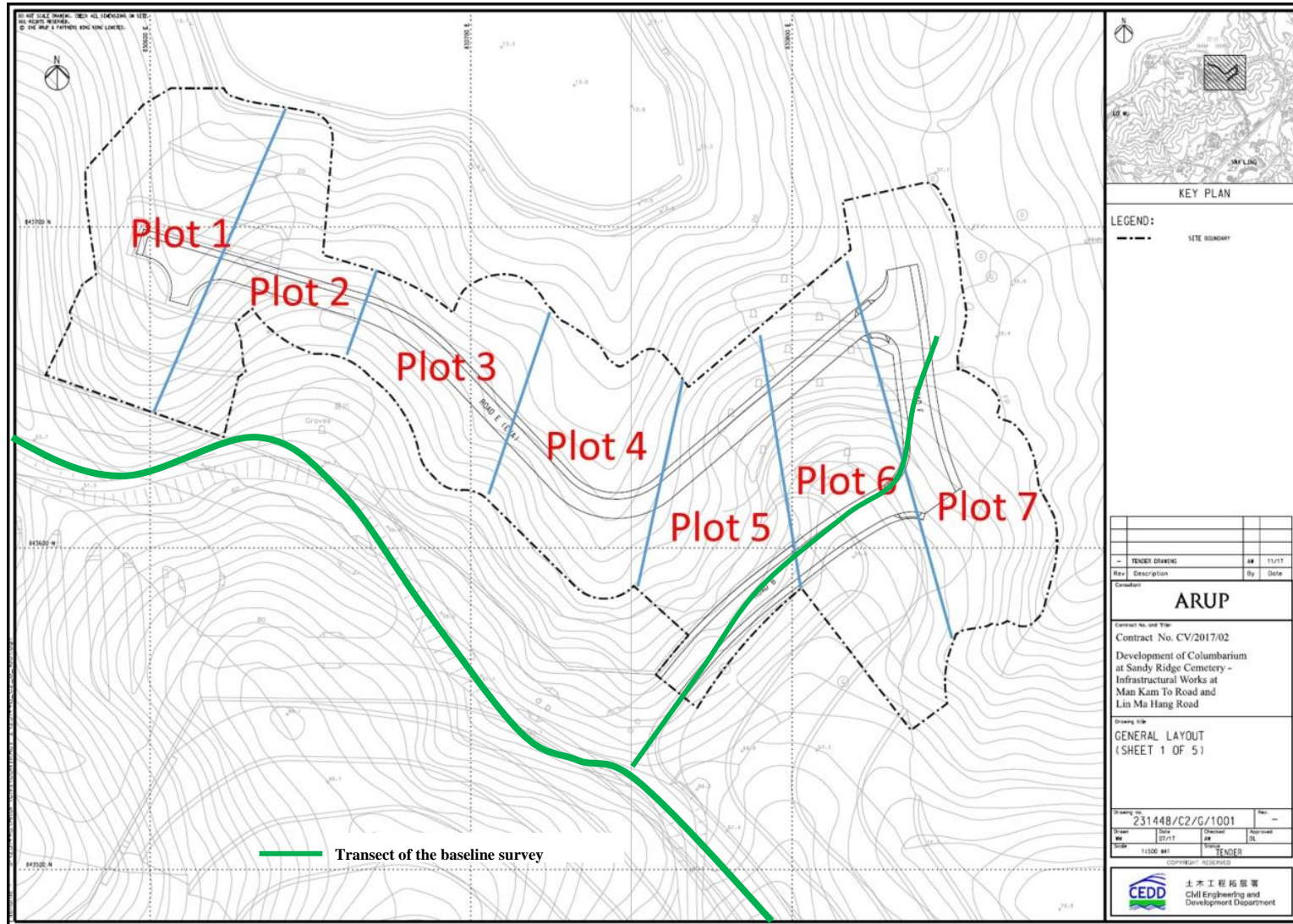


Figure 2 Transect of the Baseline Survey

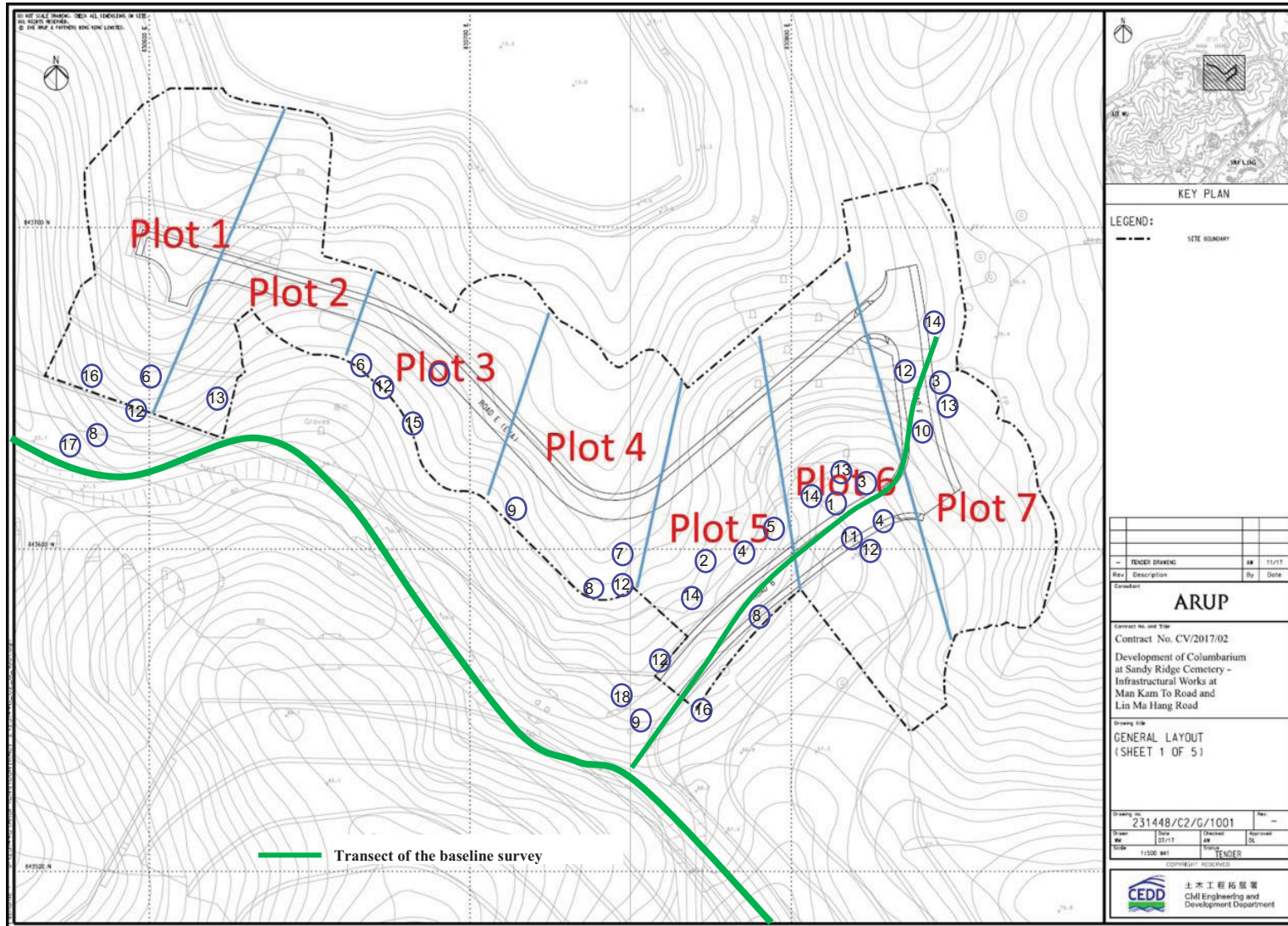
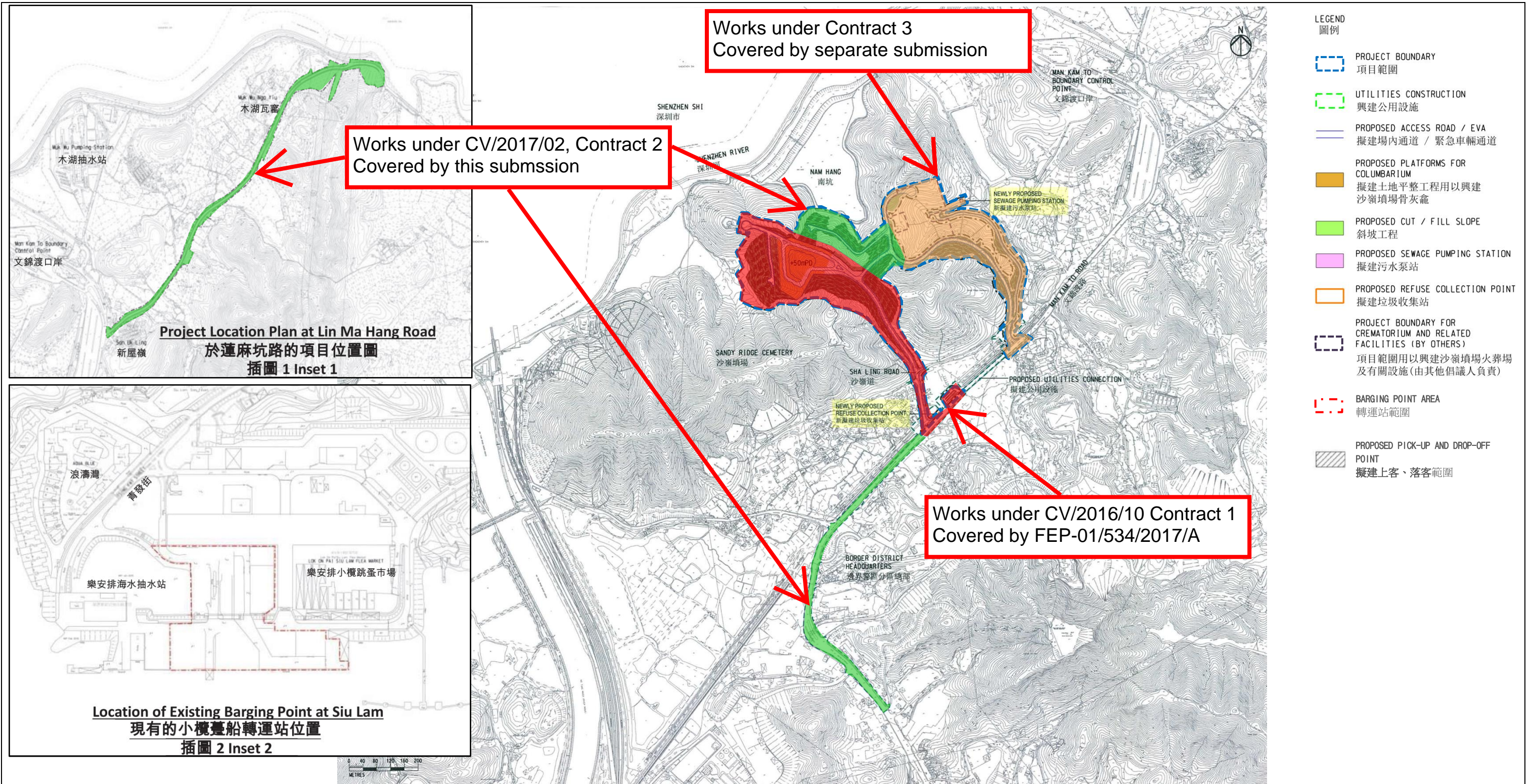


Figure 3 The distribution of the birds species

Annex A



Project Title: Site Formation and Associated Infrastructural Works for Development of Columbarium, Crematorium and Related Facilities at Sandy Ridge Cemetery
 工程名稱：沙嶺墳場興建骨灰龕、火葬場及有關設施的工地平整及相關基建工程

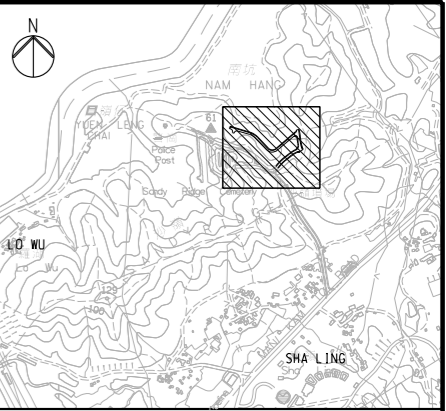
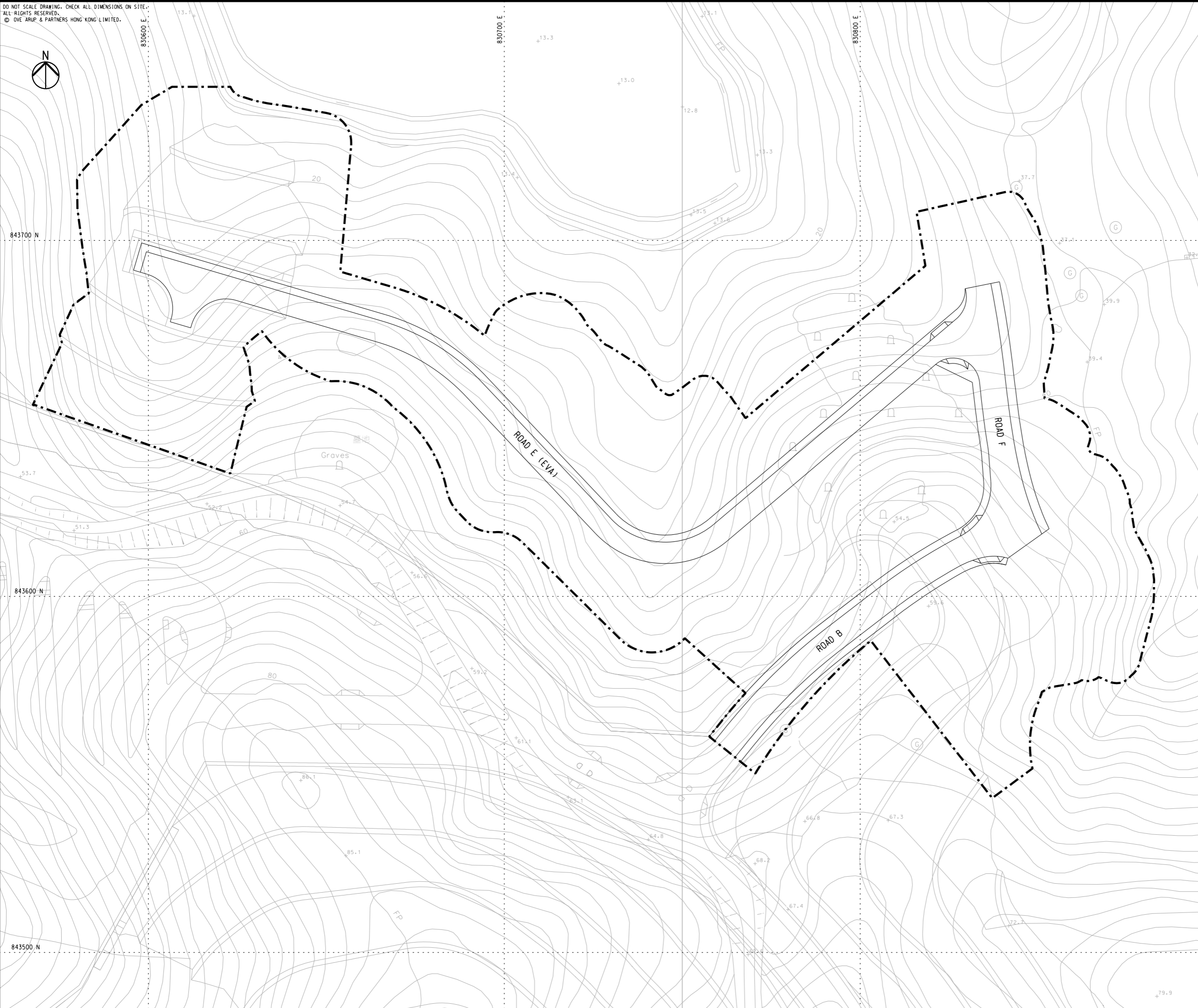
Figure 1: Project Location Plan
 圖 1：項目位置圖

(This figure was prepared based on Figure 1 attached to the VEP Application No. VEP-554/2018 and Figures 1.2 and 1.3 of the Approved EIA Report No. AEIAR-198/2016)
 (本圖是根據更改環境許可證申請文件編號 VEP-554/2018 所隨附的圖 1 和環境影響評估報告編號 AEIAR-198/2016 圖 1.2 及 1.3 編制)

Environmental Permit No.: EP-534/2017/A
 環境許可證編號：EP-534/2017/A



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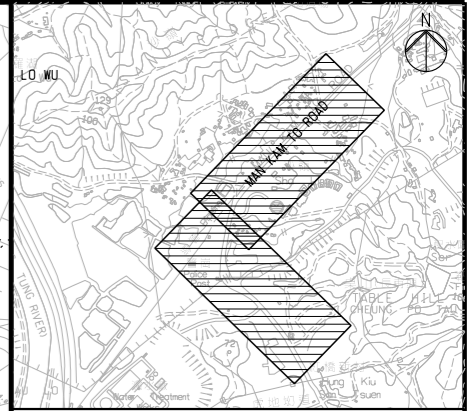
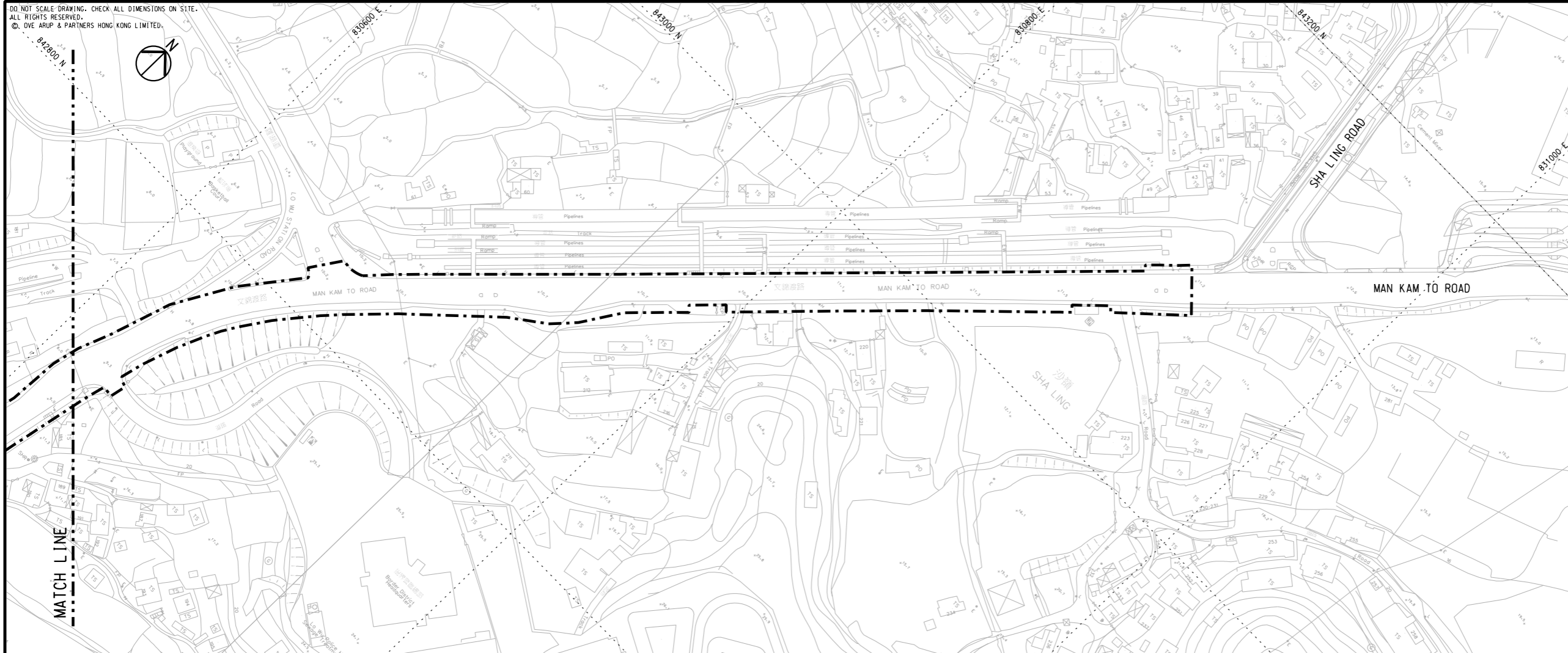
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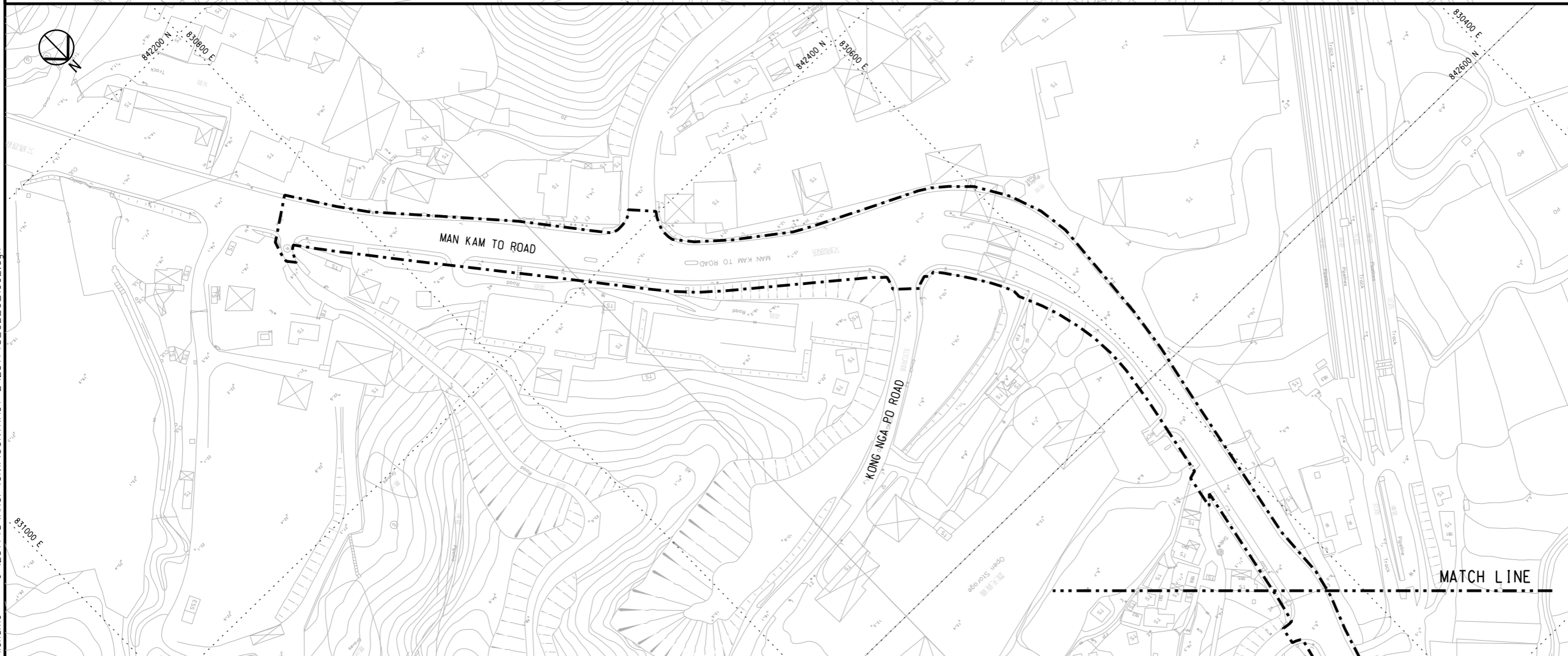
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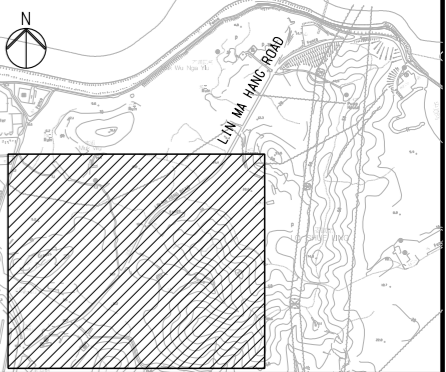
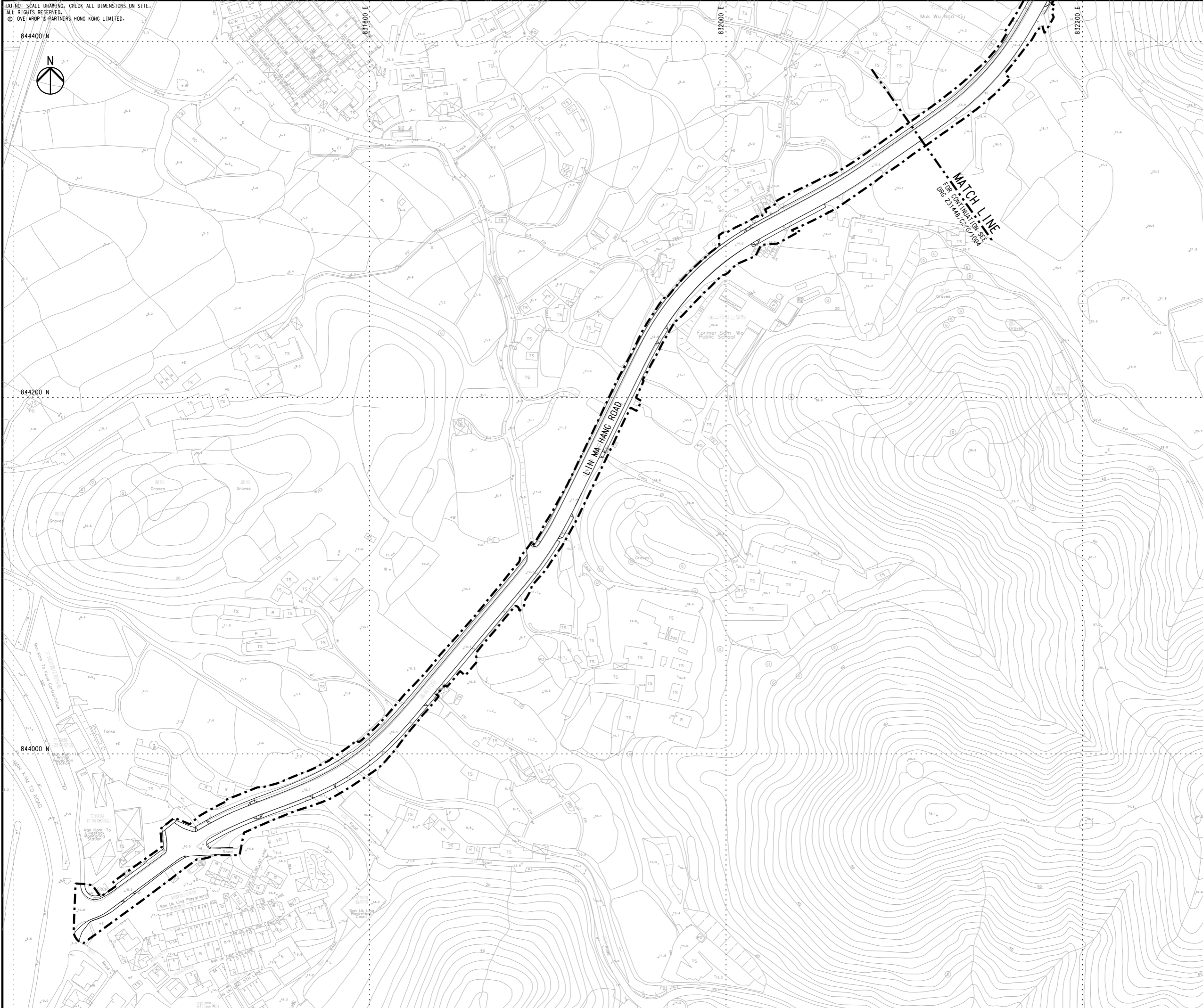
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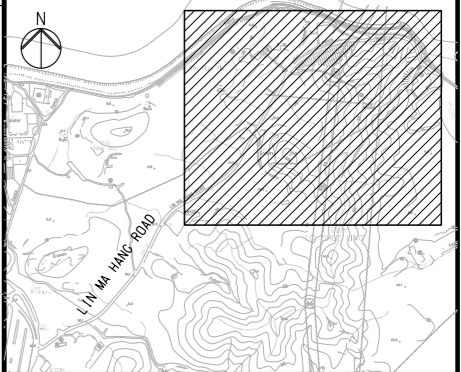
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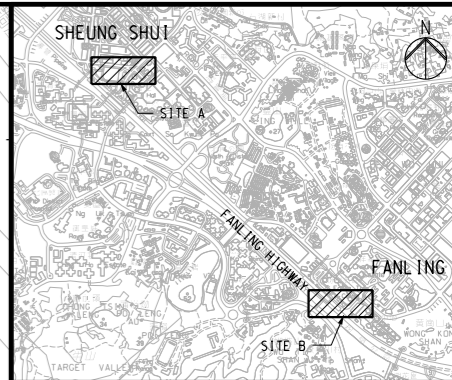
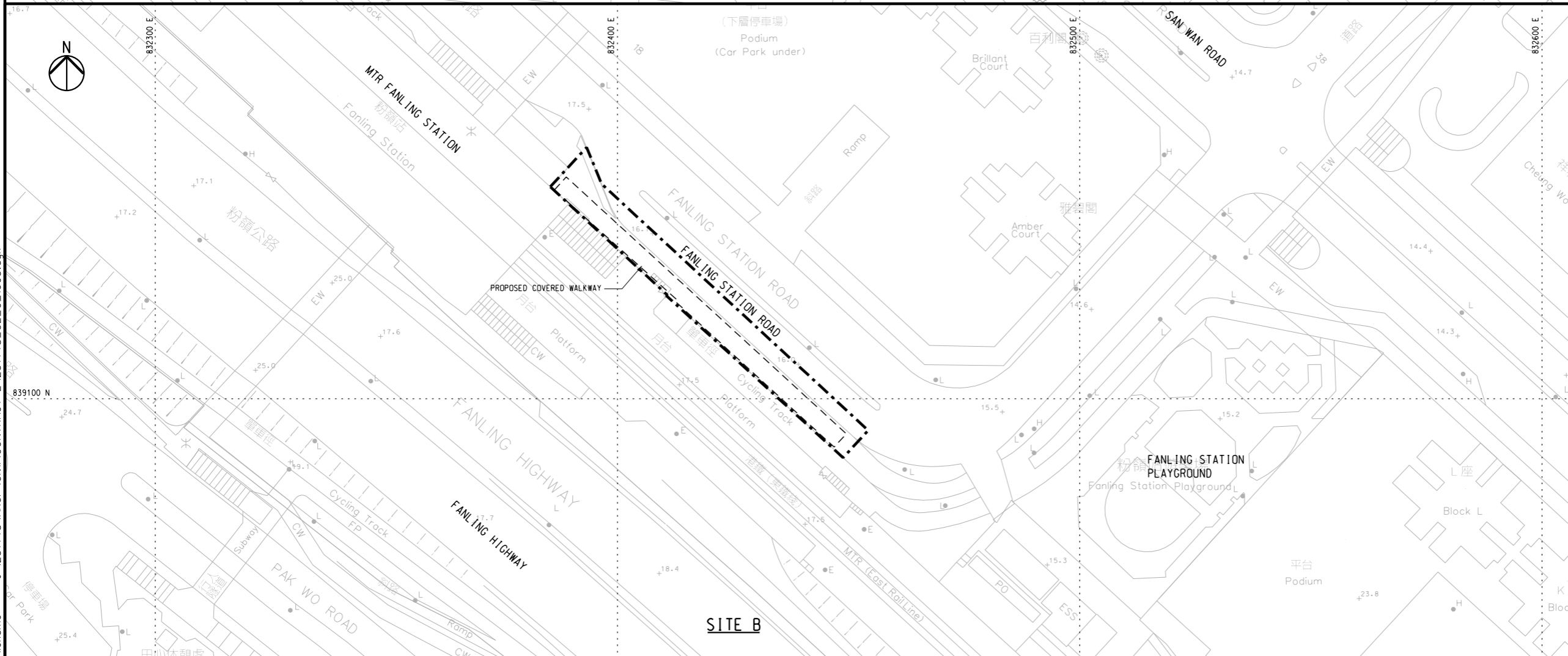
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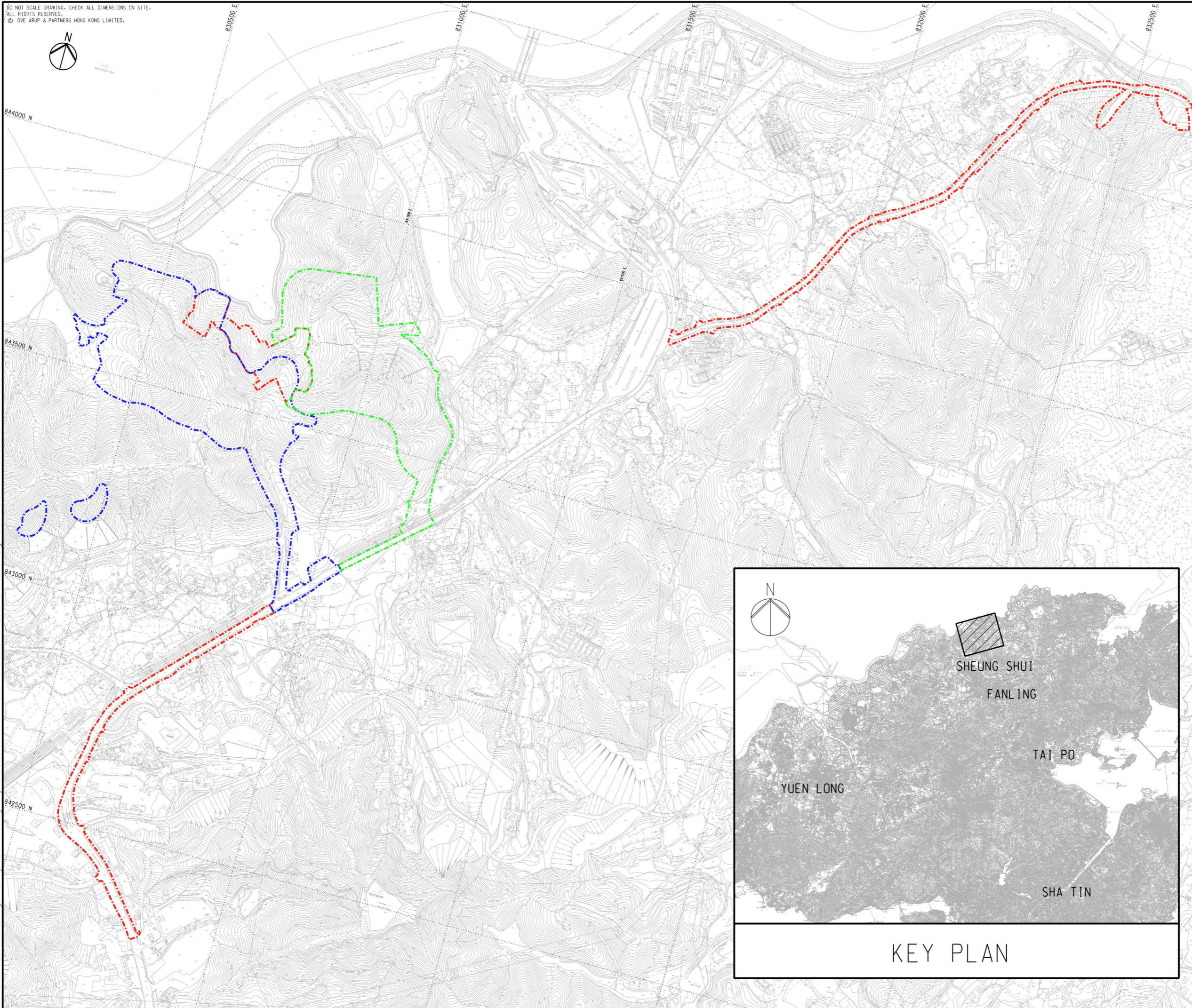


土木工程拓展署
Civil Engineering and
Development Department

Printed by : 12/27/2017
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Annex B

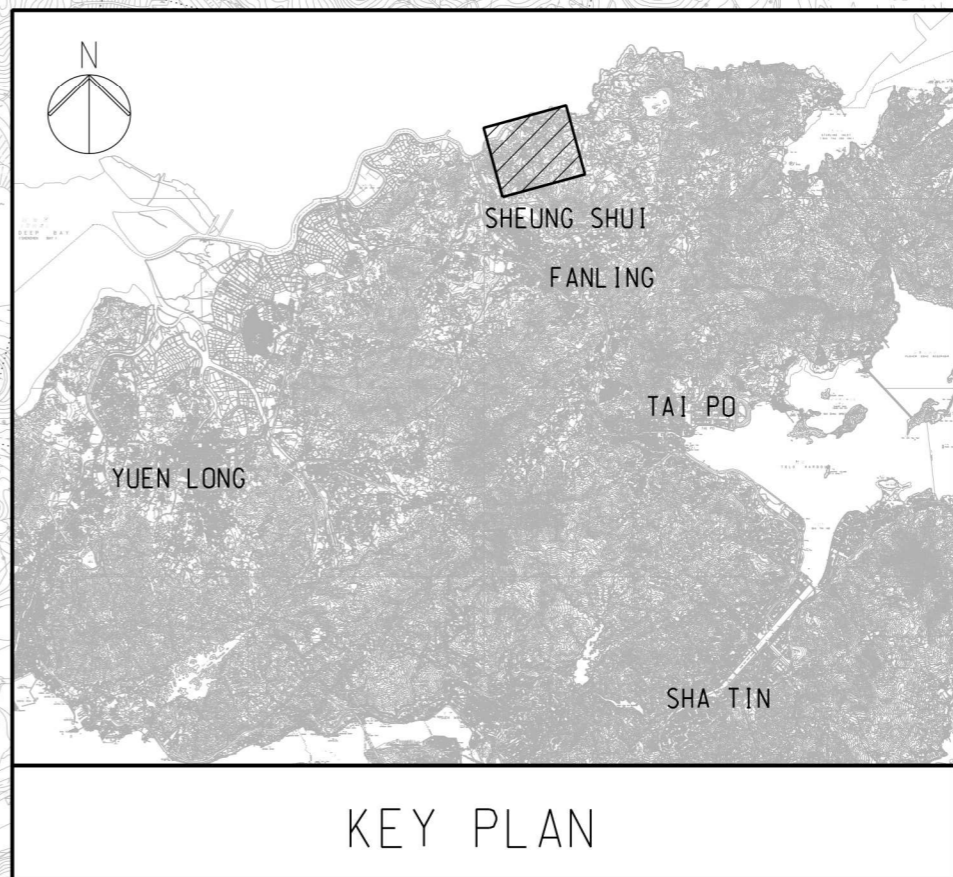
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LEGEND:

	CONTRACT 1 SITE BOUNDARY
	CONTRACT 2 SITE BOUNDARY
	CONTRACT 3 SITE BOUNDARY

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KEY PLAN

Rev	Description	By	Date

Consultant
ARUP

Contract No. and Title:
 Contract No. CV/2017/02
 Development of Columbarium at Sandy Ridge Cemetery -
 Infrastructural Works at Man Kam To Road and Lin Ma Hang Road

Drawing title

Drawing no. **231448/SK/366** Rev. **-**

Drawn XXX	Date 06/18	Checked AW	Approved DL
Scale 1:4000 @A1	Status PRELIMINARY	COPYRIGHT RESERVED	






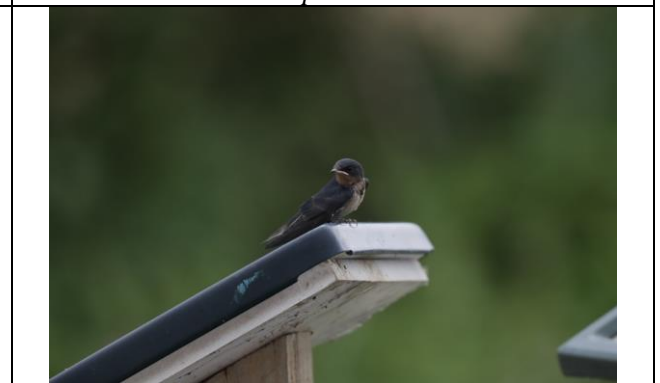




Annex C

Weather Conditions during the Surveys (extracted from HKO - Ta Kwu Ling station)

Date	Weather condition	Surveyed Plots	Mean Temperature (deg.C)	Total Rainfall (mm)	Mean wind speed (km/h)
24 th April 2018	Cloudy	Plots 5, 6 & 7	24.5	2.5	3.8
11 th May 2018	Cloudy	Plots 3 & 4	24.5	0	12.5
13 th May 2018	Fine	Plots 1 & 2	27.6	0	4.3

Photo Plate A

	
<i>Dicurus macrocercus</i>	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>
	
<i>Pycnonotus aurigaster</i>	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>
	
<i>Pycnonotus sinensis</i>	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
	
<i>Pycnonotus sinensis</i>	<i>Garrulax perspicillatus</i>

Attachment B

Our Ref: TCS00944/18/300/L0453

Civil Engineering and Development Department
Civil Engineering Office
Land Works Division
Section 8
2/F, Civil Engineering and Development Building,
101 Princess Margaret Rd,
Homantin, Kowloon

Attn: Mr. SHUM Ngai Hung, Steven

3 October 2022

By email

Dear Sirs,

Re: Site Formation and Associated Infrastructural Works for Development of Columbarium, Crematorium and Related Facilities at Sandy Ridge Cemetery
Contract No. CV/2017/02
Development of Columbarium at Sandy Ridge Cemetery – Infrastructural Works at Man Kam To Road and Lin Ma Hang Road
Baseline Survey Report for Golden-headed Cisticola

I refer to the Baseline Survey Report for Golden-Headed Cisticola prepared by the Qualified Ecologist, please note that the captioned submission has complied with the requirement as set out in the EM&A Manual we have no adverse comment on this submission. We herewith certify the captioned submission pursuant to Condition 2.19 and 3.2(i) of the Environmental Permit no. EP-534/2017/A.

Should you have any queries, please feel free to contact the undersigned at Tel: 2959-6059 or Fax: 2959-6079 or Email: twtam@fordbusiness.com.

Yours sincerely,

For and on Behalf of

Action-United Environmental Services & Consulting (AUES)



T. W. Tam
Environmental Team Leader
TW/nh

cc	Arup (RE)	Mr. Anthony Lau	By-email
	Acuity (IEC)	Mr. Jacky Leung	By-email
	Sang Hing (Contractor)	Mr. Elvin Lam	By-email

Our Ref: PL-202210028

LAND WORKS DIVISION
CIVIL ENGINEERING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
2/F, CIVIL ENGINEERING AND DEVELOPMENT BUILDING
101, PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD
HOMANTIN, KOWLOON
HONG KONG

Attention: Mr. Steven Shum

4 October 2022

Dear Steven,

Site Formation and Associated Infrastructural Works for Development of Columbarium, Crematorium and Related Facilities at Sandy Ridge Cemetery

Contract No. CV/2017/02

Development of Columbarium at Sandy Ridge Cemetery – Infrastructural Works at Man Kam To Road and Lin Ma Hang Road

Baseline Survey Report for Golden-Headed Cisticola

I refer to the email of the ET concerning the captioned. I have no adverse comment on the updated Baseline Survey Report for Golden-Headed Cisticola. According to Conditions 1.9 of the EP-534/2017/A, I verify that it complied with the requirement as set out in the EM&A Manual.

Yours faithfully,



Leung CH Jacky
Independent Environmental Checker

cc. ARUP – Mr. LEE Davis
ET Leader – Mr. TAM